

## Environmental Leadership and Innovation

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Whitman Mission National Historic Site is located approximately seven miles west of Walla Walla, Washington.

Innovation at Whitman Mission National Historic Site has taken the form of a holistic approach to manage and operate the park in such a way as to reduce the impacts on the environment. The projects related to environmental leadership and the attitude and knowledge of the staff has stimulated interest in sustainable practices that goes beyond the park boundary. Private citizens, private business, and other governmental groups, (city, county, state, and other federal agencies) have all contacted staff at the park to discuss various projects and technologies that are being utilized in the park. Thinking globally and acting locally has been put to practice by the park staff.

Listed below are some of the activities in which we have been proactively involved in to gain national and local visibility and strength:

1. Recycling and Composting (46.1 tons or 90.5% of our solid waste is composted/diverted).
2. Green Cleaning Products (50% of all cleaning products in park are designated as "Green").
3. Alternative Fuels (All diesel powered equipment uses B20 biodiesel).
4. Renewable Energy (reduced grid supplied power from 60,060 to 42,085 kWh or 30% per year).
5. Water Conservation (consumptive water use has dropped 29.5% or 648,000 gallons/year).
6. Hazardous Waste Minimization (CESQG status with mainly Universal Wastes)

Here are a few project samples accomplished:

- Converted picnic tables, benches, signs, bridge curbing, and restroom partitions from wood or metal products to 100% recycled plastic lumber material.
- Converted all incandescent lights to electronic fluorescent light fixtures in the visitor center, maintenance shop, outdoor areas, and the park residence.
- Installed recycled carpet throughout the visitor center. 5000 pounds of used carpet was recycled using the Waste to Energy method employed by Shaw Carpet.
- Installed off-grid solar-powered lighting in our parking lots and for exterior security lighting at our maintenance shop.
- Installed a 11.4 kW grid-tied photovoltaic system on the roof of our 3,500 square foot maintenance shop which has reduced our annual electrical operating costs and reduced pollutant emissions.
- B20 biodiesel is used park wide in all diesel fuel applications, including heating oil. This has contributed in reducing harmful fuel emissions, operating costs, dependency on foreign oil, all with a renewable resource.
- Traditional cleaning products were removed and replaced with environmentally preferred products. This results in reducing source pollution and decreasing employee health hazards.
- 648,000 gallons of groundwater/annually has been saved by replacing inefficient equipment in park facilities.
- Park composting and recycling efforts diverts 46.8 tons of solid waste from entering a landfill each year.
- Bio-based lubricants have replaced a host of petroleum based products in the park.

The activities and projects mentioned above are showcased to highlight our innovative thought in applying a holistic approach to environmental stewardship. Whitman Mission has attuned its own ecological and organizational attitudes to sound environmental principles and practices to help preserve and conserve the resources of the planet. In doing so, we have demonstrated to other individuals and organizations that when the right technologies are applied in a holistic approach significant savings can be achieved.